

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A lift comprising:
2 a parallelogram linkage;
3 a platform coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the platform capable of being
4 stowed onto the parallelogram linkage; and
5 an active opener arm coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the active opener arm
6 capable of assisting a user in stowing and unstowing the platform.

- 1 2. The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is capable of receiving
2 the platform from the user when the platform is being stowed and lowering the platform
3 onto the parallelogram linkage.

- 1 3. The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is capable of lifting the
2 platform off of the parallelogram linkage when the platform is being unstowed and
3 making the platform more accessible to the user.

- 1 4. The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is actuated mechanically
2 by lowering or raising the parallelogram linkage.

- 1 5. The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is actuated by an
2 actuator.

- 1 6. The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is actuated by a ground
2 plate which actuates the active opener arm as the parallelogram linkage is lowered and
3 the ground plate comes into contact with the ground.

- 1 7. A lift comprising:
2 a main frame having a lower frame coupling and an upper frame coupling;
3 a shackle having a lower shackle coupling and an upper shackle coupling;

4 a lower arm rotatably coupled to the lower frame coupling and the lower shackle
5 coupling, the lower arm having a lower arm coupling, the lower arm coupling defining a
6 horizontal plane;

7 an upper arm rotatably coupled to the upper frame coupling and the upper shackle
8 coupling, the upper arm having an upper arm coupling, the upper arm coupling being
9 lower than the horizontal plane defined by the lower arm coupling,

10 wherein the lower frame coupling, the upper frame coupling, the lower shackle
11 coupling, and the upper shackle coupling substantially form corners of a parallelogram,
12 and

13 wherein the upper arm and the lower arm have substantially parallel axes of
14 rotations; and

15 an active opener arm rotatably coupled to the lower arm coupling, the active
16 opener arm slidably coupled to the upper arm coupling, wherein rotating the upper arm
17 and the lower arm causes the active opener arm to rotate about the lower arm coupling.

1 8. The lift of claim 7, further comprising:

2 a platform coupled to the shackle, the platform capable of being stowed to rest
3 against the active opener arm.

1 9. The lift of claim 8, wherein lowering the lower and upper arms causes the
2 active opener arm to push the platform away from the lower and upper arms.

1 10. The lift of claim 8, wherein raising the lower and upper arms causes the
2 active opener arm to lower the platform towards the lower and upper arms.

1 11. A lift comprising:

2 means for carrying a load;

3 means for lowering and raising the load coupled to the means for carrying a load,
4 the means for carrying a load capable of being stowed; and

5 means for assisting a user in stowing and unstowing the means for carrying a
6 load.

1 12. A method for assisting in stowing and unstowing a platform of a lift, the
2 lift having a parallelogram linkage, the platform being coupled to the parallelogram
3 linkage, the platform capable of being stowed onto the parallelogram linkage, the method
4 comprising:
5 providing an active opener arm coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the active
6 opener arm being capable of receiving the platform from the user when the platform is
7 being stowed and lowering the platform onto the parallelogram linkage, the active opener
8 arm is capable of lifting the platform off of the parallelogram linkage when the platform
9 is being unstowed and presenting the platform to the user.